

Remarks

Claims 1-66 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 30, and 57 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 5, 30, 34, 35, and 57 have been amended, and new claims 58-66 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants thank Examiner Whipple and Examiner Lin for participating in a personal interview with applicants' representative on November 8, 2007. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Independent claims 1, 30 and 57, and their dependent claims 2, 8-10, 12-21, 36, 37 and 39-48, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,404) in view of Omshehe (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069172). Claims 3-7 and 31-35, which depend from claims 1 and 30, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Omshehe and Richmond (U.S. Patent No. 6,990,592). Claims 11 and 38, which depend from claims 1 and 30, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Omshehe and Sakakura (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0046413). Claims 22, 23, 49 and 50, which depend from claims 1 and 30, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Omshehe and Franke (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0195929). Claims 24 and 51, which depend from claims 1 and 30, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Omshehe, Franke and Banerjee (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0122947). Claims 25-28 and 52-55, which depend from claims 1 and 30, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao, Omshehe, Franke, and Gatz (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0049806). Claims 29 and 56, which depend from claims 1 and 30, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Zhao, Omshehe, Franke and Malik (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003084).

Each of claims 1, 30 and 57, as amended, recites, among other features, identifying a type of connection being sought by the user identity over the network as being among at least one of a dial-up connection, a broadband connection, a wireless connection, and a private line connection, determining types of connections used to obtain the network access by the other user identities that are identified as being associated with the user identity and determined to have network

access, the types of connections used by the other user identities being among at least one of a dial-up connection, a broadband connection, a wireless connection, and a private line connection; and determining whether to grant the user identity the network access requested based on the type of connection being sought by the user identity and based on the types of connections used by the other user identities that are identified as being associated with the user identity and determined to have network access. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims because neither Zhao, Omshehe, Richmond, Sakakura, Franke, Banerjee, Gatz, Malik, nor any proper combination of the eight describes or suggests these features.

As discussed during the interview, Zhao and Omshehe describe controlling user access to data resources over a network. However, as acknowledged by the Examiners during the interview, Zhao and Omshehe do not describe or suggest determining whether to grant network access to a user identity based on both the type of connection being sought by the user identity over the network and the types of connections used by one or more other associated user identities determined to have network access, the types of connections of the user identity and the other user identities being among at least one of a dial-up connection, a broadband connection, a wireless connection, and a private line connection. Richmond, Sakakura, Franke, Banerjee, Gatz, and Malik, alone or in combination, do not remedy the deficiencies of Zhao and Omshehe to describe or suggest these features.

For at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims.

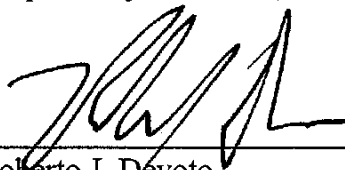
Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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The fees in the amount of \$570 for excess claim fees (\$450) and the Petition for Extension of Time fee of (\$120) are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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